Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 281869

70
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /115 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:AARENALES:RCB
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFELE
AF/S:DKEOGH
---------- 130115
P R 170102Z NOV 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 281869

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SF

SUBJECT: LESOTHO SEEKS US ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TRANSKEI BORDER CLOSURE

1. SUMMARY: LESOTHO'S AMBASSADORS TO US, UN,AND CANADA MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE AT USUN NOVEMBER 13 TO DESCRIBE EFFECTS ON LESOTHO ECONOMY OF CLOSURE BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 281869

TRANSKEI OF ITS BORDER WITH LESOTHO AND TO REQUEST US

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

ASSISTANCE TO HELP ALLEVIATE THESE EFFECTS. THEY REQUESTED SHORT-TERM HELP TO AIRLIFT FOOD AND MINE WORKERS AND LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO BUILD A 120-140 MILE $18-21 MILLION ROAD TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM EASTERN LESOTHO. SCHAUFELE SAID WE WOULD LOOK INTO SITUATION AND ASKED FOR PRECISE DATA ON MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM AND LESOTHO'S NEEDS. NOTING USG NOT BUDGETED FOR THESE EMERGENCIES, HE URGED LESOTHO SEEK MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. LESOTHANS OUTLINED STEPS THEY HAVE TAKEN IN THIS REGARD. END SUMMARY.

2. LESOTHO'S AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO US MAKEKA, AMBASSADOR TO UN MPOKI MOLAPO, AND HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA JOSEPH MOLLO MET, AT THEIR REQUEST, WITH ASST. SEC. SCHAUFELE AT USUN ON NOVEMBER 12. MAKEKA EXPLAINED THAT PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY TO USG FACT

THAT AN EMERGENCY SITUATION HAD ARISEN AS RESULT OF TRANSKEI CLOSING ITS BORDER WITH LESOTHO UPON TRANSKEIAN "INDEPENDENCE" OCTOBER 26, WHICH NEITHER LESOTHO NOR ANY OTHER COUNTRY HAD RECOGNIZED. BORDER CLOSURE CUT OFF

EASTERN LESOTHO'S TRADITIONAL ACCESS TO "LOWLANDS," THROUGH WHICH LESOTHO IMPORTED FOOD AND CLOTHING AND EXPORTED WOOL, MOHAIR AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. MORE SERIOUSLY, CLOSURE AFFECTED MINEWORKERS' ACCESS TO SOUTH AFRICA, SITUATION WHICH HAS BOTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. TO ILLUSTRATE, AMBASSADOR MOLAPO NOTED THAT LESOTHO'S SHARE OF POOL FROM SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION DEPENDS ON VOLUME OF IMPORTS IT RECEIVES THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA. IN 1974-75, HE SAID, IT HAD AN 18 MILLION RAND SHARE IN THE POOL, BASED ON 86 MILLION RAND IN IMPORTS. THIS YEAR, HE SAID, GOL'S SHARE WOULD HAVE AMOUNTED TO SOME 35 MILLION RAND UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT BORDER CLOSING HAS UPSET THAT ESTIMATE.

3. MAKEKA SAID FONMIN MOLAPO HAD EXPLAINED SITUATION IN SIMILAR TERMS TO EMBASSY MASERU AND THAT GOL, BANKING ON ITS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US, HOPED USG COULD HELP. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN GETTING FOOD
CONFIDENTIAL

TO EASTERN MOUNTAIN AREAS AND MINEWORKERS FROM THESE TO SOUTH AFRICAN MINES--BOTH NEEDED TO BE AIRLIFTED BECAUSE OF LACK OF ROADS.

4. MOLAPO SAID SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR CONTRACTORS WERE ALREADY WORKING ON AIRLIFT ARRANGEMENTS. HE EXPLAINED AIRLIFT COULD PROVIDE SHORT-TERM RELIEF BUT THAT FOR LONGER TERM WOULD BE NECESSARY BUILD ROAD THROUGH RUGGED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

TERRAIN. HE ESTIMATED ROAD AT 120-140 MILES IN LENGTH, WITH NUMEROUS BRIDGES AND TUNNELS, TO COST $18-21 MILLION. MOLAPO SAID HE HAD TAKEN MATTER UP WITH AFRICAN GROUP AT UN ON NOVEMBER 9 AND THAT A SUB-GROUP COMPOSED OF BENIN, LIBYA, MARUITIUS, NIGERIA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, THE OAU AND LESOTHO HAD BEEN FORMED TO CONSIDER MATTER. HE SAID MESSAGES HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT TO UNSYG WALDHEIM AND PRESIDENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THAT GOL HAD ASKED FOR DELAY IN GROUP'S NEXT MEETING TO ALLOW TIME TO OBTAIN DATA FROM MASERU.

5. MOLAPO SAID MASERU BELIEVES ONUS FOR SITUATION IS SQUARELY WITH SOUTH AFRICA, NOTING THAT GOL MEMBERSHIP IN CUSTOMS UNION GUARANTEES VT FREE ACCESS TO AND FROM SOUTH AFRICA FOR GOODS, SERVICES AND PEOPLE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IN RESPONSE TO GOL ORAL PROTEST TO PRETORIA ON OCTOBER 26, SAG CABLED GOL OCTOBER 30 STATING TRANSKEI

WAS NOW INDEPENDENT AND THAT SAG'S AUTHORITY OVER ITS BORDERS HAD ENDED.

6. IN RESPONSE TO SCHAUFELE QUERY, LESOTHANS AGREED THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING CUSTOMS UNION, TRANSKEI DOES NOT APPEAR BE LEGALLY BOUND BY TREATY TO MAINTAIN OPEN BORDER WITH LESOTHO. THEY ALSO AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT TRANSKEI IS SO BOUND UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. THEY NOTED THAT LESOTHO'S SIDE OF BORDER REMAINS OPEN.

7. SCHAUFELE URGED GOL PROVIDE DATA AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE ON ITS NEEDS. HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO PROBLEM BUT NOTING USG NOT BUDGETED FOR THIS KIND OF SITUATION, SUGGESTED GOL'S BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO STIMULATE SOME CONFIDENTIAL

FORM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION EFFORT. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, MOLAPO SAID PM JONATHAN HAD JUST INFORMED HIM FROM LONDON, WHERE JONATHAN WAS ALSO SEEKING ASSISTANCE, THAT ENGINEERING STUDIES OF ROAD HAD BEEN DONE AND THAT ROAD WAS PROVIDED FOR IN GOL'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

8. MOLAPO THEN RAISED PROBLEM OF STUDENT REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA. SCHAUFELE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS A SPECIAL PLEDGING THROUGH UNICEF WOULD MEET THIS PROBLEM.

HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO ISSUE AS WELL, STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOL'S NEEDS MORE PRECISELY. KISSINGER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, TRANSKEI, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE281869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AARENALES:RCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760428-0092
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761138/aaaabgng.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LESOTHO SEEKS US ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TRANSKEI BORDER CLOSURE
TAGS: PFOR, LE, SF
To: MASERU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006